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**Welcome to the Community Resilience  
Virtual Briefing  
17 April 2021**

# Topics to cover

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- Virtual briefing to complement the weekly email briefing
- National Update
- Covid update
- Community Testing
- Vaccination programme update
- Key contacts and ideas for future briefings please

# Local Advice

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- From 16 April – travel within Scotland for outdoor socialising, recreation and exercise will be allowed
- Local advice from agencies is:
  - Reminder that facilities for overnight stays and many other visitor facilities are not open until 26 April.
  - Urging people to follow current Government advice on movement and gatherings, and to follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code
  - Particularly important as there is a heightened risk of wildfires at the moment and people are being urged not to use anything involving a naked flame
  - Strong reminder for people visiting beauty spots to leave no trace and also to park responsibly to allow for emergency access

# National update

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- From 16 April – 6 people from 6 households can meet outdoors (under 12s don't count towards this)
- **Highland** – all pupils are returning to classes full time (except those shielding 26 April)
  - 2 meter distancing no longer in place in secondaries but face coverings still required and asymptomatic testing offered.
- 26 April – mainland Scotland and islands at level 4 are expected to move to level 3
- 17 May – all of Scotland expected to move to level 2
- Early June – all of Scotland expected to move to level 1
- Late June – all of Scotland expected to move to level 0
- Dependent upon the numbers remaining the same, however significant progress has been made but people still need to be cautious and follow FACTS
- Strategic Framework protection levels have been updated – circulated with this briefing

# Covid update

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- Covid positive tests are slowly declining/levelling
- Infection rate has decreased now to 11.0/100,000 – steadily decreasing over the last two weeks from last briefing when rate was 22.5/100,000. (Scotland=34.9/100,000)
- Test positivity 0.6% (1.2%)
- Majority of cases within Inverness
- Small cluster in the Merkinch area of Inverness linked to school and wider family clusters in the local area. Demonstrates how important it is to stick to:



**FACE  
COVERINGS**



**AVOID  
CROWDS**



**CLEAN  
HANDS**



**TWO  
METRES**



**SELF-  
ISOLATE**

# Trend data - Highland

## Trend data by NHS Board | Local Authority

What information would you like to see?

Positive cases

Select location:

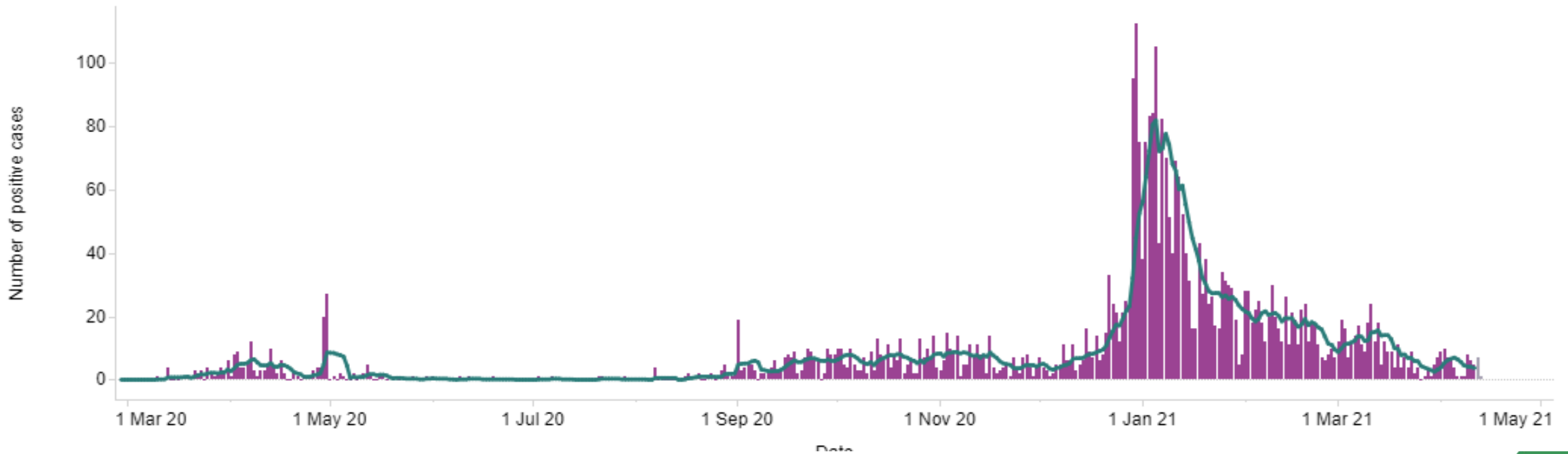
Highland

Daily figure

7 day moving average

Most recent data incomplete

## Positive cases by specimen date in Highland



Data position – 14/04/2021. 7 day test positive rate: 11.0/100,000 of Highland population

# Cases by neighbourhood

7 day positive cases in Highland based on people tested between 5 April 2021 and 11 April 2021

7 day positive cases	7 day positive rate per 100,000 population	7 day test positivity rate
26	11.0	0.6%

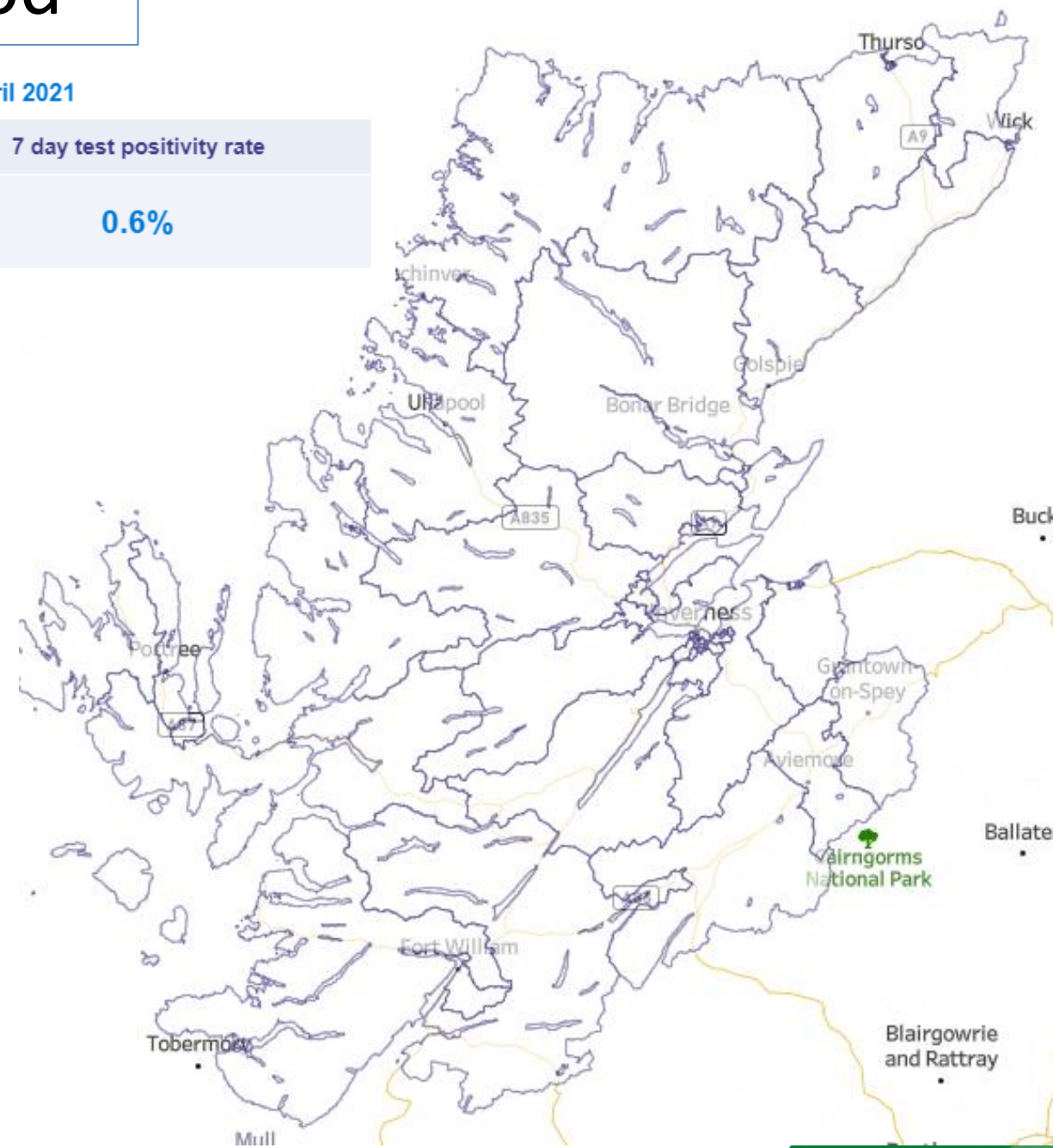
## Neighbourhoods in Highland

Inverness Merkinch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Skye North West	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inverness Muirtown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Skye North East	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inverness Culloden and Balloch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Seaboard	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wick South	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ross and Cromarty South West	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wick North	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ross and Cromarty North West	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thurso West	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ross and Cromarty East	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thurso East	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ross and Cromarty Central	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tain	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nairn West	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sutherland South	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Sutherland North and West	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Sutherland East	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Skye South	<input type="checkbox"/>		

## 7 day positive rate per 100,000 population

*	1 to 49	50 to 99	100 to 199	200 to 399	400+
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\* For neighbourhoods with fewer than 3 cases, we do not show a 7 day rate to protect patient confidentiality.





# Community testing update

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- Not everyone who has coronavirus will have symptoms, so people could be spreading the disease without knowing it.
- Government has a programme to offer rapid tests for people without symptoms.
- The programme is delivered through:
  - **Certain work places** e.g. testing kits available in all secondary schools for staff and pupils and in care homes;
  - **Setting up test centres in communities where Covid outbreaks occur** – in Highland we are using mobile units. These will be deployed where needed.
    - Merkinch community centre for symptomatic and asymptomatic testing (SAS). Next week trial the Council's mobile unit in Inverness at the Council's HQ car park. This is to train staff and test our methods. Members of the public can attend from 22<sup>nd</sup> April to 1<sup>st</sup> May. It may continue for longer if needed. Public messaging to follow.
  - **A new Universal Offer from end April**, still being designed but likely to mean people can register for testing kits on-line for them to be sent to their home address or for collection locally.
  - Expect a **targeted offer** for anyone attending the Scottish Parliamentary Election Count 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> May.



# Community testing update

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- If mobile units for testing come to your community please take part and encourage others in your community to take part too. No appointments are needed – you just turn up.
- By getting tested, you can help your community, families and friends stay safe and slow down the spread of coronavirus.
- By getting tested, you can help us move towards reopening work places and businesses and avoid any new restrictions being imposed.
- More testing helps to show us how the virus is spread and reduce risks.
- Anyone testing positive will be asked to take a further test to confirm the result and if that 2<sup>nd</sup> test is positive there is support available for people to self-isolate.
- Advertising community testing in an area will be done through a number of routes. We will contact local groups in any areas affected. Please help spread the word if it comes to your community.

# Asymptomatic Community Testing

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## Types of tests:

- **LFD – Lateral Flow Devise** testing is carried out by mouth and nose swabbing and checks for virus antigens (the proteins from the virus that trigger an immune response). It is self-administered and can be conducted and analysed anywhere and provides results in approximately 30 minutes. Already used among professional groups including health and social care front line and care homes staff, school-based staff and all secondary school pupils. Will be used for our community testing and in the new Universal Offer and for the Election Count.

If an LFR test is positive, people are asked to test again using the PCR test below.

- **PCR – Polymerase Chain Reaction** testing is carried out by nasal swabbing and checks for viral genetic material. This test is sometimes referred to as the “gold standard”, however, analysis is done in a laboratory and it takes several hours to transport and analyse samples.

# Vaccination programme update

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## Good progress is being made in Highland:

- For NHS Highland area as a whole, over 153,453 first dose vaccinations have been administered which is **60.3% of the over 16 population against a Scottish rate of 57.1%.**
- On track for all those aged over 50 years to be vaccinated by 18 April as well as anyone with a health condition which puts them at increased risk or is a carer or frontline health or care worker.
- Next cohort is 40-49 year olds.
- Timelines may be brought forward given increase in vaccine supplies expected.
- Most clinics are run by GP practices. A few are led by NHS Highland and our mobile units have been deployed so far in Beauly and Ballachulish in support.

# Thank you and stay safe

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- For local resilience support – please contact your Ward Manager or [policy6@highland.gov.uk](mailto:policy6@highland.gov.uk)
- For welfare advice and referring people - [Welfare.support@highland.gov.uk](mailto:Welfare.support@highland.gov.uk)
- For the vaccination programme [NHSHighland.Feedback@nhs.scot](mailto:NHSHighland.Feedback@nhs.scot)

Please respond to [policy6@highland.gov.uk](mailto:policy6@highland.gov.uk) if there are any items you'd like to see included in future briefings.

We plan to review the virtual briefing in mid May (after 3 months), and are keen to hear your views on how helpful this information is and what would make it better.